

WASHINGTON, D. C., WEDNESDAY, MAY 28, 1941.

C-1

Harris' Job in Jeopardy as Washington's Losing Streak Reaches Nine Games

Win, Lose or Draw

By FRANCIS E. STAN.

An Old Fox With His Dander Up

It requires no clairvoyance nor occultic powers to establish that Uncle Clark Griffith is pretty disappointed with his 1941 Washington ball club and in a mood to do something about it. This was indicated when he released Outfielder Ben Chapman outright. And he delicately hints there may be other and more important changes coming.

The old gentleman felt last March in Florida that this would be a wide-open American League race, with no super teams to beat. So far this observation has been correct. The Indians are no great ball club, the Tigers are feeble flag defenders without Greenberg, the Yankees are too old in some spots and too young in others, the Red Sox have many weaknesses and the rest of the clubs lack all-around class and balance.

It was such a race that Griffith wanted. The old boy always was at his best when sitting in a tight game and drawing to an inside straight, with everybody else doing the same. That was the reason he expected such big things this season and that is the reason he is so disappointed at having received so little.

"I still say we've got a pretty good team," Griffith was saying today. "I think we're as good as the White Sox, for instance. But they're out-hustling us and winning."

Griff's Words: 'Sox Out-hustle Us'

It isn't often that a club owner will admit that his team is being out-hustled, because this usually is a reflection on the manager, whose job it is to see that players give their best. But Griffith very distinctly used the term "out-hustle" and he sounded none to enthusiastic over the in-again, out-again policy which Bucky Harris has been employing in an attempt to get the Nats started.

Griffith's ire is no great surprise to Bucky now. The erstwhile "boy wonder" got a brief taste of it during the first Western trip, when the Nats dropped their first two games in Chicago. The boss was in the stands those days, having gone West to participate in a tribute to Hoss Radbourne, the old pitcher. He is reliably reported to have made certain caustic suggestions to the manager whom he signed to 11 contracts.

We wouldn't know if the White Sox are a better team than the Nats. Griffith insists that he wouldn't swap clubs, even-up. He wouldn't give Travis for Apppling, Bloodworth for Knickerbocker, Cramer for Kreevich and Lewis for Lodigiani, nor trade his pitching staff of Leonard, Hudson, Chase, Sundra, Kennedy and Masterson for Lyons, Rigney, Smith, Lee Dietrich and Appleton. That sounds sane enough.

Yet the White Sox are in second place today by a clear margin and the Nats are in seventh place. After six weeks of play the Nats have fallen 13½ games behind the league-leading Indians and are 8½ games behind the Chicago.

Harris and His Hot-and-Cold Tactics

Harris was a strong hunch manager when he was playing boss of the Nats from 1924 through 1927. He was a gambler who was both lucky and shrewd. When he returned to Washington after managerial flings at Detroit and Boston, Bucky was more cautious, although he still gambled more than some pilots. As a young pilot and as an old-timer, he always played the man he thought was potentially capable and both the consequences.

This year Bucky has bewildered even Griffith with his hot-and-cold tactics. Because Rookie George Archie didn't burn up the American League right off the bat, he benched Archie and put Jimmy Vernon on first base. Vernon was a major sensation from the start. Yet, when Jimmy was hitting .347, Harris benched him and put Archie back on the bag, explaining that it was because a left-handed pitcher was opposing the Nats.

Ever since the Nats gathered in Orlando last February, Harris talked about Catcher Al Evans, whom he made the first-string catcher in Florida. When the season opened Dick Ferrell was behind the plate, because he was best fitted to handle Rubeen's knuckler, but Evans got his chance and when the kid made one or two early mistakes he was chained in the doghouse and Jake Early was moved from No. 3 to No. 1. Ferrell was traded for Pitcher Kennedy.

Griff Missed a Few Buses Himself

When Chapman got off to his usually slow start, Harris benched him and tried Johnny Velaz and Sammy West, the former a .146 hitter this year and the latter a 37-year-old .250 hitter. Chapman was put back and then benched again to make room in the line-up for Jimmy Fofahl, a little lame-armed shortstop, who is batting .138.

Already this season there have been two second basemen, Jimmy Bloodworth and Buddy Myer. There have been three shortstops, Cecil Travis and Fofahl, and three third basemen, Buddy Lewis, Travis and Bloodworth. In left field have been Chapman, Wela and George Case. In right field Case started and Lewis is there now. Ken Chase and Walter Masterson were starting pitchers when the season opened and both were demoted to the bullpen. Chase recently was promoted again.

Harris has not been the only guy who has played in hard luck this spring. Griffith, himself, has not done too well. He let Babe Dahlgren spring away from him. Then Rip Radcliff was smuggled from the Browns to the Tigers while he wasn't looking. Griffith could have used both of these boys, especially Radcliff, and it is not definitely established that he made a wise move in firing Chapman.

Ben was playing for \$12,000 a season, taking a \$2,000 cut after coming in trade for Cleveland. Griffith thought this was too much salary and cut him loose. But if Chapman ever would have been worth his salary it would have been from now on. He never was a spring hitter (he was batting only .167 this time a year ago), and yet from mid-June on he consistently has been an asset. Maybe this is one of those years when nobody can do anything right.

Major League Statistics

WEDNESDAY, MAY 28, 1941.

AMERICAN LEAGUE				
Result Today	Result Yesterday	Result Tomorrow	Result Tomorrow	Result Tomorrow
New York 4; Washington 5	Boston 3; Philadelphia 2-11	St. Louis 3; Chicago 2	St. Louis 3; Chicago 2	St. Louis 3; Chicago 2
Standing of the Clubs	Standing of the Clubs	Standing of the Clubs	Standing of the Clubs	Standing of the Clubs
Cleveland 13	St. Louis 13	St. Louis 13	St. Louis 13	St. Louis 13
Chicago 12	St. Louis 12	St. Louis 12	St. Louis 12	St. Louis 12
New York 11	St. Louis 11	St. Louis 11	St. Louis 11	St. Louis 11
Detroit 10	St. Louis 10	St. Louis 10	St. Louis 10	St. Louis 10
Boston 9	St. Louis 9	St. Louis 9	St. Louis 9	St. Louis 9
Philadelphia 8	St. Louis 8	St. Louis 8	St. Louis 8	St. Louis 8
Pittsburgh 7	St. Louis 7	St. Louis 7	St. Louis 7	St. Louis 7
Washington 6	St. Louis 6	St. Louis 6	St. Louis 6	St. Louis 6
St. Louis 5	St. Louis 5	St. Louis 5	St. Louis 5	St. Louis 5

NATIONAL LEAGUE				
Result Today	Result Yesterday	Result Tomorrow	Result Tomorrow	Result Tomorrow
St. Louis 3; Chicago 2	St. Louis 3; Chicago 2	St. Louis 3; Chicago 2	St. Louis 3; Chicago 2	St. Louis 3; Chicago 2
Standing of the Clubs	Standing of the Clubs	Standing of the Clubs	Standing of the Clubs	Standing of the Clubs
St. Louis 13	St. Louis 13	St. Louis 13	St. Louis 13	St. Louis 13
Chicago 12	St. Louis 12	St. Louis 12	St. Louis 12	St. Louis 12
New York 11	St. Louis 11	St. Louis 11	St. Louis 11	St. Louis 11
Detroit 10	St. Louis 10	St. Louis 10	St. Louis 10	St. Louis 10
Boston 9	St. Louis 9	St. Louis 9	St. Louis 9	St. Louis 9
Philadelphia 8	St. Louis 8	St. Louis 8	St. Louis 8	St. Louis 8
Pittsburgh 7	St. Louis 7	St. Louis 7	St. Louis 7	St. Louis 7
Washington 6	St. Louis 6	St. Louis 6	St. Louis 6	St. Louis 6
St. Louis 5	St. Louis 5	St. Louis 5	St. Louis 5	St. Louis 5

Greenberg Is Clouting for Soldier Softball Team

Little Rates Self 15-1 in Open; Two N. L. Umpires' Sons Playing for Notre Dame

By EDDIE BRIETZ,

Associated Press Sports Writer.

NEW YORK, May 28.—Lawson Little considers himself a 15-to-1 shot to do a repeat in the national open. Army life hasn't dimmed Hank Greenberg's famous batting eye—a homer and a double in a camp softball game the other day. Text to Ed Lewis, Corpus Christi, Tex., and several dozen others: The Louisville-Bear fight pay-off was on the seventh round. His friends at Kansas City say Phil Rizzuto misses the razzing he used to get from his teammates. Always a great warrior, the other Blues played all sorts of practical jokes on Ray Pinielli, Jr., sons of the National League umpires, follow each in the Notre Dame batting order.

For crying out loud—Ben Hogan, who has finished in the money in 48 consecutive tournaments, is moaning he is in the worst slump of his career! Billy Monte Proser, former boxer, is in charge and name dance bands will be featured. So you'd like to own a ball club, huh? Well, the Charlotte Hornets of the Piedmont loop already have spent \$1,200 for baseball this season and are running out again. Muddy Ruel, White Sox coach, advises youngsters not to learn to throw the knuckle ball—it tightens the muscles in the forearm. Joe Ricard, who used to be quite a Golden Glove, authored the new hit tune, "Used Old Owl." One-minute interview—The eminent elbow, Mr. Lefty Grove, who is trying to make it 300 victories for his major league career says:

25,000 Throng Seen for Griff Tilt Tonight

Johnson's Pitch to Set Switch Inaugurating Arc Baseball Here

Into the full glare of 180,000,000 candlepower will prance the embarrased Nationals tonight, with upward of 25,000 spectators adjusting themselves to the unfamiliar sight of scanning baseball under the arcs.

The anticipated huge crowd will provide testimony to the lure of night baseball, for the curious thought will be watching a team that has dropped nine straight games. Battling to deal the Nats their tenth successive licking will be the New York Yankees, with action slated to start at 8:30 o'clock.

Walter Johnson, Washington's pitching sensation of another era, will blink and be amplified over the 740 floodlights suspended from eight towers. At 8 o'clock Johnson will pitch to a sensitive photocell beam of light across home plate.

When Johnson's pitch nicks the 3-inch light beam, the electric eye will blink and be amplified over a cable to throw the switches that will turn on the floodlights, swathing Griffith Stadium with more light than any park in either major league.

Roosevelt Cadets Parade.

In previous tests engineers announced lighting intensity at the pitching mound and at home plate is 20 times greater than the average well-illuminated business desk. Should the amount of light thrown over the playing field be concentrated in a single beam it would be possible to read a newspaper 18 miles away. Enough electrical capacity has been installed to supply the electrical needs of 5,000 homes.

William Harridge, president of the American League, will attend the inaugural, Kenesaw Mountain Landis, commissioner of baseball, wired President Clark Griffith that pressure of business will prevent his being here.

Roosevelt High School's crack cadet band and a company of cadets from the same school will participate in inaugural festivities. Both the Nats and Yankees will take plenty of practice under the lights, although both clubs will have lighting practice at twilight. Washington's batting practice was to start at 6:15.

A development which may revolutionize the baseball industry, major league night play is the handiwork of Leland Stanford MacPhail, now the enterprising general manager of the Brooklyn Dodgers.

MacPhail Leads Way. Night baseball is no invention of MacPhail's—the first organized league game under artificial light was played at Independence, Kans., in April, 1920—but it was Terry who introduced it to the majors, much to the satisfaction of the Cincinnati Reds.

With the money of Powell Crosley, Jr., and his ingenuity, MacPhail yanked the Reds out of the red with night baseball, which long had been the savior of many a minor league. MacPhail later was drafted by Brooklyn and employed much the same medicine in curing the Dodgers' financial ailments.

The twelfth major league executive to submit to the night game, President Griffith of the Nats once was night baseball's sternest foe. He battled it bitterly, but last year hopped on the band wagon and advocated a bit of legislation which alarmed other owners.

Griff suggested night baseball be played five nights a week during July and August. He feels it eventually will come to that, and he doesn't see much sense in waiting. Clubs now are restricted to seven night games a season, although the St. Louis Browns last year were permitted to play 14.

Washington has been cited as an ideal spot for night baseball, what with its large ratio of Government employees who are reluctant to clip time off annual leave to attend week-day games.

Armstrong Nine Champ After Beating Dunbar

Armstrong High's nine was recognized as the District's colored high school champion today, following its 20-3 rout of Dunbar yesterday. Nine Dunbar errors were largely responsible for the score, as Armstrong made seven less hits than runs.

Before taking the field against Dunbar the new champs licked National Training School, 5-2, in a warmup game.

A NEW LIGHT ON THE NATS

—By JIM BERRYMAN



'Pepper' Martin, Playing Pilot, Has Sacramento 10 Games in Van, Hasn't Lost a Series

By the Associated Press.

SAN FRANCISCO, May 28.—"Pepper" Martin, the old handy man and ball of fire of the St. Louis Cardinals, likes his new job as manager of the Sacramento Senators. From his results in two months he appears out for the work.

The Senators are leading the Coast League by 10 games, haven't lost a series yet, and unless half the squad pulls up with broken legs, seem destined to breeze in for Sacramento's first pennant.

Martin, besides master minding the Cardinal-owned outfit, is doing a journeyman's stint in the outfield. It is on the offensive side that "Pepper" is as hot as his edible name-sake.

Using Bunting Tactics. He's scandalized the Coast League by a generous use of powder-puff bunting tactics in a game where he-man home run lapping claims the most applause.

Rival third basemen and catchers are growing fresh crops of gray hairs daily. Six times this season—the Senator pulled bunts with two men out. Five of the six times they got away with it and four game victories are partly attributed to what some call unorthodox baseball.

"I don't care what they call it, as long as it makes runs," Martin said. "It isn't anything new. I saw Bill

Champion Clubs Seek Chapman. Outfielder Ben Chapman, recently released by the Nats, today was considering offers from both of last year's pennant winners, the Detroit Tigers and the Cincinnati Reds. Chapman also has received a bid from the Chicago White Sox.

Meanwhile, it is rumored Manager Joe McCarthy of the Yankees is displaying interest in First Baseman George Archie of the Nats, who would be shipped to Kansas City in exchange for Third Baseman Buddy Blair.

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BASEBALL TONIGHT 8:30 P.M. NIGHT GAME Washington vs. New York AMERICAN LEAGUE PARK Tomorrow—New York 3:15 P.M.

Orioles Come to Life To Knock Newark From I. L. Lead

By the Associated Press.

LOS ANGELES, May 28.—Exercise boys are cashing in on winners at Hollywood Park, without risking a dime.

The track gives the exercise boy of each winning horse \$10, a total of \$4,080 for the meeting. Officials said it's the first time in turf history exercise boys have been so rewarded.

Many of them were inclined to think that the Birds were mighty lucky in taking two out of three from the Bruins over the week end, but the seventh-place Orioles showed it was no accident by whipping the Bears again last night, 3-1.

The Montreal Royals took over first place by a half game with a 3-2 decision over the last-place Toronto Leafs. Victory gave the Royals a record of 24 games won and 13 lost; Newark has won 24 and lost 14.

Exercise Boys Get Easy Coin

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Griffith Angered By Lax Play of Outfielders

Blames Bucky for Lack Of Spirit; Defeat by Yanks Protested

By BURTON HAWKINS. Manager Bucky Harris of the Nationals today was skating on thin ice under a sweltering sun, for President Clark Griffith admits "something will have to be done" unless the floundering Nats suddenly display more spark. Unless Washington's players show hustle and zest which has been lacking lately a switch in managers is not unlikely.

"I never contemplate changing managers until I'm ready to make a change," said Griffith, focusing no light on the subject. "But," Griffith continued, "unless we improve something will have to be done. I'm hoping Bucky can pull the boys through."

Harris, now serving a seventh consecutive season as Washington's manager, is blamed by Griffith for the team's apparently unenthusiastic attitude. After yesterday's protested 10-8 loss to the Yankees—the Nats' ninth straight—Griffith fumed about the loafing of his outfielders.

Declares Gardeners Loaf. "Our outfielders aren't hustling," griped Griffith. "They aren't rushing the ball and other teams are picking up extra bases on us. Bucky could remedy that situation—I don't know what's wrong with him."

Not new to Harris this season are Griffith complaints. Earlier this year Griffith gave him a going over for the team's appearance in a brace of losing games at Chicago. In the West to dedicate a plaque to Hoss Radbourne, former pitching great, Griffith criticized the team's tepid attitude and advised Harris to return to the coaching line.

Peaved, too, is Griffith that Harris failed to protect a game Sunday at Philadelphia, when the A's Wally Moses fled out to Right-fielder Buddy Lewis, only to return to the plate and swat a single to center. Moses claimed he had requested time by calling before he swung at the pitch he lined to Lewis and Umpire Summers upheld him. Why Moses swung after calling for time is something Griffith feels should have been explained.

It may be significant that Harris protested a somewhat similar situation yesterday. He was to submit his protest today to William Harridge, president of the American League.

Claims Hit Illegal. Harris claimed that base Umpire Eddie Rommel had called time out before the Yankees' Frankie Crosetti singled to center opening the seventh inning. Rommel apparently had done that when a foul ball was thrown on the field from the stands, but the hit was allowed. The Yankees already had collected nine runs, enough to win, but Griffith says the protest has a fine chance of succeeding.

Now removed from the cellar by the grace of a few percentage points, Washington owns its longest losing streak in several years. It isn't

(See HAWKINS, Page C-4.)

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6.00x16	\$14.35	\$7.17
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6.50x16	\$23.25	\$10.95
7.00x15	\$25.60	\$11.95
7.00x16	\$26.35	\$11.95
7.50x16	\$33.35	\$16.67

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